

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker,

Under your leadership, H.R. 3200, the "America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009," focuses on the unique health care needs of children as it strives to provide health coverage for all Americans. The legislation also provides a critical focus on ensuring that coverage will provide access to care by including several provisions to increase access and capacity in primary care. We are writing to request that you continue to consider children's health care by incorporating their most critical access issue, access to pediatric specialty care, into these provisions.

Specifically, we ask for your consideration in extending Section 1721, Payments to Primary Care Practitioners, to include pediatric specialty care. The section currently requires that Medicaid pay no less than Medicare for the same primary care services by 2012. Inadequate Medicaid payment rates for primary and specialty care often result in physicians limiting the number of Medicaid patients they will accept or not accepting them at all, which is a particularly critical issue for children. Medicaid is the single largest children's health insurance program, covering one in four children, yet on average it reimburses children's hospitals and pediatricians 30% less than Medicare would pay.

Children currently experience long wait times for many specialty care appointments, which can result in delays in care and increased emergency room use. The ability of children and their primary care providers to access specialty care when needed is a critical part of providing effective health care to American children, particularly for the growing numbers of children with chronic conditions or special health care needs.

We commend you for your commitment to expanding health care to uninsured children through the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program signed into law earlier this year. H.R. 3200 represents a critical next step in improving the level of health care for children. Therefore, we urge you to include the House provision regarding Medicaid primary care payment provision and to extend it to pediatric specialty care in final health reform legislation. It will make a major contribution towards ensuring that our success in expanding coverage translates into access to the right care at the right time in the right setting for our nation's children.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Hilary

Betty McEllen

John Spratt

Tin Ryan

John W. Oliver

Harold Johnson

Anna Siro

John A. Brann

Michael E. Capuano

John Hall

Joe Courtney

Pat A. Brady

Laura Richardson

T. J. Vuk

Jim L

Betty Markey

Keith Ellis

Emanuel Weaver

Joe Latah

Nikki Ingers

Alan L

Cheri Wilson

For L. Dwyer

John A. Quinn

Charles A. Jorgensen

John Turk

Barry Fark

Donald M. Payne

Gene Allen

Abner Allen

Ralph M. Hall

Bill Delahunt

Steven A. Northman

Eleanor H. Norton

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Jim Hughes

Rob Bucher

Elijah E. Turnings

Jim Olustad

Melvin White

Wm. Laeg Clay

Ed Pastor

Calvin Fattah

Danny K. Davis

John Lewis

C. A. Dutch Rappersberger

List of Signers:

The Honorable Mary Jo Kilroy
The Honorable Robert Brady
The Honorable John A. Boccieri
The Honorable Rick Boucher
The Honorable Michael Capuano
The Honorable Steve Cohen
The Honorable Joe Courtney
The Honorable Wm. Lacy Clay
The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver
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The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
The Honorable Steven Rothman
The Honorable Joe Sestak
The Honorable Albio Sires
The Honorable Zack Space
The Honorable John Spratt
The Honorable Niki Tsongas
The Honorable Timothy J. Walz
The Honorable Maxine Waters
The Honorable Charles A. Wilson

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2009

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
House Committee on Education and Labor
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller,

Under your leadership, H.R. 3200, the "America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009," focuses on the unique health care needs of children as it strives to provide health coverage for all Americans. The legislation also provides a critical focus on ensuring that coverage will provide access to care by including several provisions to increase access and capacity in primary care. We are writing to request that you continue to consider children's health care by incorporating their most critical access issue, access to pediatric specialty care, into these provisions.

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Lu Z. Z. H.

John B.

Betsy McKay

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Emanuel Leaver

Doe Festale

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Ann Va

Cheri Wilson

Harold Dosselt

Sam C. Himm

Charles A. Jorgensen

John T. Jorgensen

Bury Frank

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Paul H. Payne

Arnold Nelson

Ralph M. Hall

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Rick Boucher

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2009

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rangel,

Under your leadership, H.R. 3200, the "America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009," focuses on the unique health care needs of children as it strives to provide health coverage for all Americans. The legislation also provides a critical focus on ensuring that coverage will provide access to care by including several provisions to increase access and capacity in primary care. We are writing to request that you continue to consider children's health care by incorporating their most critical access issue, access to pediatric specialty care, into these provisions.

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Mike

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Joe Lestak

John A. Bordin

Alan Lee

Amber Wilson

Hayd Doughty

Sam C. Arvin

Charles A. Jomely

Shirley

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Gene H.

Charles A. Russell

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The Honorable Charles A. Wilson

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Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2009

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman,

Under your leadership, H.R. 3200, the "America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009," focuses on the unique health care needs of children as it strives to provide health coverage for all Americans. The legislation also provides a critical focus on ensuring that coverage will provide access to care by including several provisions to increase access and capacity in primary care. We are writing to request that you continue to consider children's health care by incorporating their most critical access issue, access to pediatric specialty care, into these provisions.

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Glenn J. Payne

David G. Petersen

Ralph M. Hall

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Steven A. Rothman

Eleanor H. Norton

[Signature]

Jim H. Breen

Rick Breen

Elizah E. Jennings

Jim Olmstead

Melvin White

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